

# Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness



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## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December 2006  
Vol. 1, Issue No. 4

**ELEVATED**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **December 8 - 17**

Special Legislative Session  
Executive Staff and Section  
Chiefs should be prepared to  
answer questions for committees  
and agency leadership on a  
moment's notice

### **December 11-13**

Parish Directors Meeting  
Lafayette, Louisiana  
Best Western Hotel

### **December 13-14**

Texas A&M (TEEX)  
MGT-315 Course  
Baton Rouge for EBR Parish

### **December 15**

Urban Search and  
Rescue Meeting 10 a.m.

### **December 18**

Directors Meeting 8 a.m.  
Section Chief Meeting  
9 a.m.

### **December 25-26**

State/Federal Holiday

*CALENDAR, see Page 4*

## Latest Events

### ***Deputy, deputy director hired***

Fred Palmer was named deputy director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. Palmer earned extensive emergency management experience in his 30 years with the Louisiana Army National Guard.

Beth Sigler has been appointed as the assistant deputy director of administration. In this position, she will be responsible for budget, finance, human resource and accounting within the agency. She will also be the agency's point of contact in dealing with other governmental entities at the administrative level.

### ***Presidential disaster declared***

October brought widespread flooding throughout the state of Louisiana. GOHSEP quickly responded to the floods by dispatching an Area Command and Preliminary Disaster Assessment Teams lead by Neal Fudge.

The teams coordinated with local officials in the flood ravaged areas and called for Federal Emergency

Management (FEMA) support. Joint disaster assessments were done, tallies were forwarded to FEMA Region VI, approved by Jeff Smith and Governor Kathleen Blanco and then on to Washington where President Bush signed a federal disaster declaration. Additional parishes were added after additional flooding occurred in South Louisiana.

GOHSEP and FEMA set up a Joint Field Office in Alexandria. The partnership between the two disaster agencies is working quickly and efficiently to provide assistance to those who suffered damages from the floods.



*One of the many accidents caused during the October flooding in Calcasieu Parish.*

## ***GOHSEP to publish newsletter twice a month***

The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness will move to publishing its newsletter on a twice a month basis in hopes of keeping our partners at the state and local level more informed of the agency's progress and plans.

Emergency management and Homeland Security issues change

rapidly and the move to a twice monthly publication will allow GOHSEP to provide a steady flow of information to our partners and employees.

Questions or comments on this change should be addressed to Mark Smith at 925-7427. Deadline for submissions will be the 10th and 20th of each month beginning in January.

# *Delegations comes to learn from GOHSEP*



*Jeff Smith and Pat Santos with the White House Fellows during their tour of the EOC. The Fellows came to discuss the Hurricane Katrina response with GOHSEP officials. The White House Fellowships are America's most prestigious program for leadership and public service. Since 1964, the White House Fellowships have offered outstanding young Americans the opportunity to participate in the day to day business of governing the nation. Each Fellow works full time as a special assistant to a Cabinet member or senior presidential advisor and also participates in an education program designed to nurture his or her development as a leader.*



*Emergency Managers from South Korea came to Louisiana last month to further their knowledge and understanding of how to respond to catastrophic disasters they may face in their own country. Shown above are many of the members of the large South Korean contingent during the GOHSEP's agency information briefing and tour of the EOC. The South Korean delegation is just the last in a long line of foreign and domestic emergency managers who have traveled to Louisiana to further their emergency management training. Like the delegations before them, the Koreans focused their questions on the lessons learned in Louisiana from the 2005 Hurricane Season.*



# Division Summaries

## The Disaster Recovery Section

### *The Paper Cut*

**Section Chief Mark DeBossier**

2006 has been a good year for Disaster Recovery; 2007 will be even better.

The disaster recovery section would like to welcome its new employees and would also like to thank the volunteers who assisted with the flooding around the state in October in both North and South Louisiana.

Moving forward, the finance cell is still mailing out over a hundred paper checks per week. Please encourage your local agencies to take advantage of electronic funds transfer (EFT). They will their money faster and save a step for us.

### *Money On The Street*

This is our goal at PA and here are the latest numbers:

Total funding obligated for both disasters **\$4.58 billion.**

Amount paid out this month **\$94 million.**

**A worthy goal: currently PA has put \$ 1.94 billion on the street. We are short \$62 million for \$2 billion mark. Lets make that happen before the end of the year.**

### *Appeals*

The appeals process is an integral part of the disaster recovery process. When team members are able to avert an appeal, it benefits all. An averted appeal saves time, money and effort, while reassuring the applicant the issues will be addressed. The average number of man hours saved per averted and settled appeals is 6 hours. Thanks goes out to all the team members: grant managers, team leads, supervisors, PAC's, finance, QA/QC, and the appeals section.

Calcasieu Parish School Board team averted 53 appeals.

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development team has settled 13 appeal cases.

City of New Orleans, Department of Public Works

team was successful in obtaining \$4.5 million in public assistance funding.

The cumulative total for the Public Assistance Appeals stands at \$23 million dollars.

### *Safety tips for the upcoming months:*

- Many of your relatives may have easy open lids for their medications. This can be a deadly situation with young children around.
- If your Christmas lighting and extension cords are strung along the floor and overloading outlets, fire or tripping hazards are created.
- Keep a blanket in the trunk. It is useful in many situations: keeping someone in shock warm; rolled, it can elevate a wound; used with a belt it can immobilize a sprain or broken limb. The blanket can be used as a litter to drag some one to safety or throw it over someone who has caught on fire. An additional bonus: on these nice fall days, you can stop for a spontaneous picnic and some quality time with your family.
- During the holiday season, many plants, fruits and nuts abound. Please be cautious. With all the gaiety of the season, many forget that an aunt is allergic to nuts, that mistletoe berries are poisonous as are the leaves of poinsettias and that Uncle Joe is a bit depressed. Enjoy the spirits of the season, keep a watchful eye, and drive responsibly.

### *The Lighter Side*

We believe in recycling at GOHSEP: To date this section has filled 110 five drawer file cabinets with project worksheets and the corresponding backup documents that go with them. This calculates to over 2,500,000 sheets of paper.

Need copies of a PW? Don't fret. The finance cell has one, as does the treasury, the applicant and the grant cell. Nemis and LAPA have them as well in electronic form. The bi-weekly copy count is over 1 million for the 3rd floor alone.

### *New lingo*

Chip and seal is road surface terminology, not an appetizer.

Only FEMA could come up with a difference between "flood proofing wet" versus "dry".

# Operations and Plans update

By E. J. Hitzman

*Operations and Plans  
Chief*

As the end of the official 2006 Hurricane Season comes to a close, the Operations Section continues to remain vigilant in preparations for next year's hurricane season.

While the preparations continue, Operations has been busy with a number of activations of the Crisis Action Team (CAT) in support of emergencies throughout the State. These include a major oil spill, several fire incidents, a downed aircraft search and rescue and most recently, two bouts of severe weather in Louisiana ultimately leading to the President of the United States declaring a major Disaster, No. 1668.

The EOC Operations Section continues to improve its operational Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and train new and existing Operations personnel on EOC operations and the critical technology that supports its mission. During the period of 1 October 2006 through 31 December 2006, the EOC and its personnel have hosted and briefed State Legislative liaisons on EOC operations and E Team. The EOC also participated in a Command Post Exercise for Region 9 and a River Bend Power Plant Exercise. EOC personnel conducted an information briefing with Louisiana Hydroelectric Limited and a tour of the EOC for FEMA/GSA representatives and students from the Louisiana School for the Deaf.

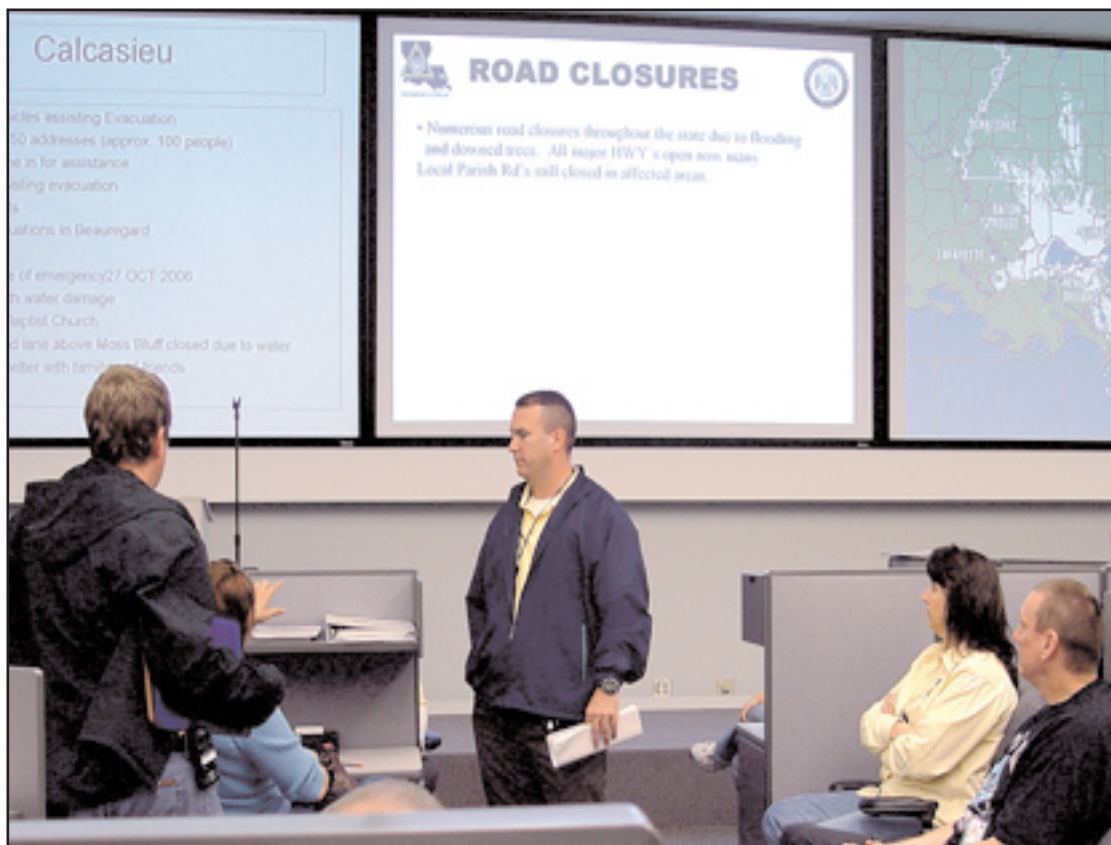
## ***Operations Personnel Update:***

Bruce Ellis – Operations Branch Manager

Bruce joins GOHSEP from the private sector. He also just completed a 24 year military career in the Louisiana National Guard as an Operations and Plans Officer.

BELLIS@ohsep.louisiana.gov

Wendy Brogdon is moving from Operations to Planning.



*Area Commander Neal Fudge briefs the Preliminary Disaster Assessment Teams prior to their deployment.*

She has been named the new Emergency Services Branch Planner.

WBrogdon@ohsep.louisiana.gov

Jill Babin - Operations Officer

Jill joins GOHSEP after having worked in the FEMA Disaster Recovery Center. Jill served 7 years Active Army time as an Intelligence Analyst, Korean Linguist and Interrogator.

JBabin@ohsep.louisiana.gov

## ***Plans Branch Update***

The Plans Branch is still growing and will hire additional staff in 2007. The Plans staff will be participating in the Hurricane Preparedness course in Miami in January, as well as Hurricane Preparedness and Response Courses at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, Maryland in January and April 2007.

GOHSEP planners rotated schedules and worked in Monroe, Lake Charles and Alexandria assisting the on site Area Command.

The Planning Section is gearing up to review Parish emergency operations plans (EOPs) and looks forward to working with the parish directors and new regional coordinators in this process.



# Buffer Zone Protection Program update

By Kevin J. Breaux  
Training Branch Manager

Louisiana was awarded \$2,550,000 for the 2005 Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP) grant program. Fifty-one sites were awarded up to \$50,000 each for their participation in the grant.

The money allows local law enforcement to increase security measures around critical infrastructure sites that are vital to the local, state, and national economy. All fifty-one plans have been approved by the Department of Homeland Security and the parishes are in the process of ordering and receiving equipment. The authorized equip-

ment list may be found on the Responder Knowledge Base website. The deadline for the grant is March 2007.

Louisiana was awarded \$2,268,000 for the 2006 BZPP grant program. Twelve sites were selected to receive the grant award. Each site is eligible to receive up to \$179,550. Currently, five of 12 sites have submitted plans and are being reviewed by the Department of Homeland Security. Louisiana is the first state in the country to have any plans submitted for the 2006 Buffer Zone grant. The grant will end in March 2008.

The authorized equipment list for this grant may be found on the Responder Knowledge Base website.

2007 BZPP grant guidance will be published at the end of December 2006.

The Buffer Zone grant is a continuing effort to secure the critical infrastructure around the state and country. The local law enforcement agencies have been pleased with the equipment offered to them by the Department of Homeland Security. Furthermore, the chemical and hazardous materials industries have been very receptive to the grant and are working well with law enforcement.

For more information on the BZPP or for any questions, comments, or concerns may be directed to Eric "Rick" Kuntz at 225-925-7323.

## RapidCom units deployed, lend support

By Steven Burr

The recent weather events in November provided an ideal opportunity for deployment of the GOHSEP RapidCom units in an "real-life" disaster environment. The RapidCom communications units enabled our teams to establish satellite, radio, phone, and internet communications support for the various Area Commands and IA/PA field teams that were deployed to support the disaster's aftermath. The unit was later used for the Joint Field Office (JFO) that was established in Alexandria as a network control center. This was instrumental in establishing network data services for the various site operations.

The trailer unit allowed operational command and control to be set up and maintained in a timely manner; providing immediate primary and secondary communications services in areas that may have temporarily lost services or supplementing existing services.

Deployments were in the following areas during the

month of November: West Monroe, Vernon, Jena, Lake Charles and Alexandria Joint Field Office

The RapidCom deployments were supported by two IT personnel, Stanley Washington and Jay Lockwood

The three GOHSEP RapidCom units are self-contained and highly transportable communications platforms designed to provide interoperable communications capabilities for rapid response efforts, as well as short term infrastructure replacement. The units come with 2 generators, propane tanks, a satellite antenna system, and includes mounting capability for 4 or more additional antennas, as may be required for the various VHF/UHF/800 MHz communications systems. The modules came with a trailer, but can be mounted on a truck or air dropped by helicopter.

The unit's 2 propane-fired generators and three fuel tanks power the unit for up to 72 hours before refueling, making the unit an effective means of running communications from affected areas throughout an emergency if response.

### CALENDAR, from page 1

#### January 1-2

State/Federal Holiday

#### Homeland Security Training

POC: Jodi Harvey 225-925-7699

#### 04-06 December.

LSU Law Enforcement WMD  
Winnfield, Winn Parish

#### 05-07 December.

DHS Hostile Surveillance Detection  
for Critical Infrastructure Security  
and Operators at Carville St.  
Gabriel's Syngenta Chemical facility

#### 13-14 December.

Texas A&M (TEEX) MGT-315  
Course Baton Rouge for EBR  
Parish

#### Emergency Management Training

POC: Amber Calvert 225-925-1706

#### 04-05 December

ICS 300 at GOHSEP

#### 06-07 December

ICS 400 at GOHSEP

# Critical Infrastructure & Key Resources



**By Kevin Siegmund**  
*CI Branch Chief*

The Critical Infrastructure Branch running full speed with many initiatives and projects underway designed to enhance the existing security of our statewide critical assets. The cornerstone document that provides the roadmap for protection of our critical assets is the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP). The basic goal of the NIPP is:

Building a safer, more secure, and more resilient Louisiana by enhancing protection of the State's Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources (CI/KR) to prevent, deter, neutralize or mitigate the effects of deliberate efforts by terrorists to destroy, incapacitate, or exploit them; and enable state and local preparedness, timely response, and rapid recovery in the event of an attack, natural dis-

aster or other emergency is the branch's goal.

The branch is working to bridge the divide between the State and Local jurisdictions and private organizations to improve our information sharing and awareness of challenges in the 17 sectors of CI/KR. We've been invited to sit in on numerous public and private security forums including the Louisiana Chemical Association, Dupont Facility Security Officer committee, US Coast Guard Area Maritime Security Committees, Capitol Complex Emergency Working group and the Agro-Terror Working groups just to name a few.

Nowhere is this public-private partnership more evident than a new pilot project that is currently underway involving collaboration between the GOHSEP CI Branch, Baton Rouge Fire Department HAZMAT and the LSU Geological Survey.



## *Regional coordinators gets hands-on training*

**By Brant Mitchell**  
*Regional Support Section Chief*

The Regional Support Section has actively engaged in providing direct support to the Parishes.

This new section brings a new dynamic to GOHSEP. The agency now has readily available and trained staff to co-locate with in the regions. The coordinators will provide direct assistance to our parish partners during emergency related events, and will be in the regions to provide support in training and coordination with the state at all times.

Providing direct support to the severe weather events of October in North and South Louisiana, the regional coordinators gained invaluable experience in working hands-on in an

active disaster.

The severe weather events also provided the opportunity to learn and understand how to conduct Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA) for both public assistance and individual assistance. All the coordinators teamed with FEMA PDA teams to conduct the initial assessments for both events.

With the declaration of the Severe Weather Events as Disaster 1668, the coordinators also rotated through and supported the Joint Field Office in Alexandria. This support has closed the loop on the disaster recovery aspect of their jobs as they have also been exposed to setting up Mobile and Fixed Disaster Recovery Centers as well as participating in Public Assistance Kickoff Meetings and

Hazard Mitigation Coordination meetings.

The opportunity to participate in the operations and recovery aspect of real world events will prove to be invaluable. The end result is a better trained and educated work force that will be able to assist the parishes in the future.

The coordinators have all completed the 2006 NIMS compliance requirements and more than half have completed ICS 300/400. In addition to classroom instruction, they have actively participated in "real time" ICS system environments in the Operations, Resource/Logistics and Planning branches as well as assisting IT in establishing communications with our new RapidCom systems to provide direct linkage back to the State EOC.